questioned and challenged by the Cellular Operators' Association-they are private operators-on the basis that it was not arrived at on a scientific basis. Having received such a complaint, the matter was referred to the TEC (Telecom Engineering Centre), which is the apex body available in the Ministry, which is competent to decide what is the subscriber-based criteria. Till the TEC's report came, TRAI's report was kept in abeyance. Fortunately or unfortunately, the TEC's report came and, again, it was not accepted by the Cellular Operator's Association. The Association does not accept TRAI's recommendation as well as the TEC's recommendation. TRAI's recommendation is the minimum and the TEC's recommendation is the maximum.

As the hon. Member put it, it appears that in the newspapers there are a lot of cunfusions; I want to put an end to it. I accepted, the Ministry accepted TRAI's recommendations and, accordingly, Spectrum is allotted.

So far as allotment is concerned, there is no dispute between the regulator and the Government. Of course, the matter is pending before the court.

The second thing is that there are differences of opinion between the two operators—the CDMA technology and the GSM technology. There is a war going on between the GSM and the CDMA, and the matter is pending before the TDSAT. The matter is *sub judice.*

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, my second supplementary is this. Since Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad is not here and the Minister has said that it comes under that, so if he can reply to that question plus I want to know whether the Government proposes to introduce convertibility and portability of phone numbers, as reported in different media, thereby retaining the same number, irrespective of the service provider. If that is so, when is it going to be introduced?

SHRI A. RAJA: Sir the concept of 'number portability' has been accepted and declared, in principle, by the Government. The modalities and the feasibility must be worked out with TRAI. The moment I accepted the 'number portability' concept, in principle, that has been referred to TRAI; TRAI is looking into it. As soon as the report comes, the Government will take all steps to implement it.

आस्ट्रेलिया से यूरेनियम की आपूर्ति

*210. श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या आस्ट्रेलिया ने भारत को यूरेनियम सप्लाई बन्द करने के संकेत दिए हैं;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है?

प्रधान मंत्री कार्यालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पृथ्वीराज चव्हाण): (क) से (ग) एक विवरण सदन के पटल पर प्रस्तुत है।

(क) भारत को आस्ट्रेलिया से यूरेनियम की कोई सप्लाई प्राप्त नहीं हो रही है और इसलिए आस्ट्रेलिया से यूरेनियम की सप्लाई बन्द होने का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

(ख) तथा (ग) उपर्युक्त के मद्दे नज़र यह प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता।

Supply of Uranium from Australia

†*210. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Australia has given indications to India to stop the supply of uranium;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

Statement

Referred to in reply to Rajya Sabha Starred question No. 210 *by Smt. Sushma Swaraj for answer on* 13.03.2008 *regarding supply of uranium from Australia*

(a) India is not getting any supplies of Uranium from Australia and therefore the question of stopping supplies of Uranium from Australia does not arise.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of above.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: धन्यवाद सभापति जी, मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में कहा है कि भारत को आस्ट्रेलिया से यूरेनियम की सप्लाई प्राप्त नहीं हो रही है इसलिए आस्ट्रेलिया से यूरेनियम की सप्लाई बंद होने का प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता। मैं आपसे यह जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या आस्ट्रेलिया ने यह चेतावनी दी है कि यदि भारत अमेरिका के साथ परमाणु संधि पर हस्ताक्षर करने के बाद परमाणु विस्फोट करेगा, तो वह न्युक्लियर फ्यूल की सप्लाई बंद कर देगा और केवल बंद ही नहीं करेगा, बल्कि जो उन्होंने पूर्व में सप्लाई की होगी, उसको भी डेमज़िज के साथ वापिस मांगेगा?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have replied very categorically. We have never got any uranium from Australia. There was a meeting between the Australian Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of India in August 2007 when he informed our Prime Minister that Australia was willing to supply. He informed about the decision about possible sale of uranium to India. It was agreed in that meeting that official level discussions would follow. They have not happened yet.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: सर, मैंने तो उसके आगे की बात की है, if he is willing to supply तभी तो बाद में बंद करेगा। इसीलिए मैं आपसे यह पूछ रही हूं कि क्या उन्होंने यह कहा है यह शर्त रखी है कि अगर संधि पर साइन होने के बाद आप परमाणु विस्फोट करेंगे, तो वह उस सप्लाई को बंद कर देंगे, यही तो मेरा पहला सवाल है, उसी का जबाव नहीं दे रहे हैं?

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, I have been categorical that there is no discussion on supply of uranium from Australia to India. The official level discussion was promised by the Prime Minister. No discussion has taken place yet. So, there is no question of current supply or any past supply. We have not received any uranium.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: मंत्री जी, मैं फ्यूचर सप्लाई की बात कर रही हूं न करंट न पास्ट की। मैं फ्यूचर सप्लाई की बात कर रही हूं। ...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Arun Shourie. Shrimati Sushmaji, please allow the next speaker (*Interruptions*)... Shri Arun Shourie.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Sir, the Minister would like to tell us whether our recollection is not correct that the Foreign Minister of Australia actually did make a statement that it India tested, then the uranium supply could not take place. If they are taking place, they would be stopped Secondly, Sir, as you know very well, uranium is being supplied by Australia to China. That is why. We were emphasising to all this while, that this business of whether India is recognised as a Nuclear Weapon State or not, is not a matter of prestige. It is of practical importance. They say that they will supply to China because, as you know, China is a Nuclear Weapon State. In view of these circumstances, whether it is not a case that itself shows how the Nuclear Suppliers Group works as a cartel, exactly as we have been saying. Sir, would the Minister not agree with this? The provisions of the Hyde Act, to which specific attention is being drawn here, bind the US executive, to ensure that if they curtail any supply to India for any reason, then, no other member of the Nuclear Suppliers Group will Supply those items. All this that you are saying confirms that point.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN: Sir, the hon. Member is a very knowledgeable Member about this matter. No civil nuclear cooperation will be possible which includes supply of uranium from other countries, unless the Nuclear Suppliers Group alters its guidelines. We are working towards that end. Whether it is Indo-US agreement or whether it is IAEA talks are going towards that objective of getting the Nuclear Suppliers Group to alter its guidelines which will permit civilan nuclear commerce with other countries.

*211. [*The questioner(s)* (Shri Jai Parkash Aggarwal was/were absent. For answer *vide* page 33]

Second and Third Generation of Spectrum

*212. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to allocate the second and third generation of spectrum for mobile phone services;

(b) if so, the salient details of the criteria for the allocation;

(c) whether TRAI accorded concurrence to the said decision;

(d) if so, the salient details of its concurrence;

(e) if not, the details of its objections and suggestions;

(f) the steps taken, if any, in response to TRAI's objections/suggestion;

(g) whether Department of Telecommunications (DoT) had to entrust the Telecom Engineering Centre (TEC) to fix criteria for spectrum allotment;

(h) if so, the background details thereof; and

(i) the critiera fixed by TEC?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (i) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) As per the relevant provisions of Unified Access Sevices License agreement, and eligibility criteria, spectrum for second generation (2G) mobile phone services is allotted to the service providers, on first come first served basis subject to availability. The Government has announced broad guidelines and third generation (3G) services, taking into account TRAI recommendations and other related aspect.